

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 13. 1712.

HOW easily can the Sovereignty of Providence put an end to the Strife and Ambition of Princes ? And what reason have we all to adore that Providence in the Government of the World, if we look upon the Face of the Affairs in Europe at this time ?

It is not the Business of this Paper to preach to you ; but really, when Heaven gives us such a Text as this, we ought all to preach to our selves : The Throne of the French King was erected above the usual height of the Kings of the Earth, a long Progeny in view, even to the Fourth Generation, promised him an Establishment

in his House : That these Things prompted him to set his Children upon the Thrones of his Neighbour Nations, I make no question, trusting in his own Greatness and Power, that he could uphold them there ; nor indeed could all the Power of Europe easily pull them down from thence.

Now God has taken him into his own Hand, and we see him blasted from Heaven, in that very Thing whereon he had so sedately placed his Hope : We see him humbled at once, by one Stroke of the Omnipotent Power, beyond what Seventeen remarkable Overthrows at Sea and Land, and taking 33 Fortify'd Cities and Towns

Towns from him could do; how far Heaven will go farther with him, we yet know not.

Let us now take a View of our own Case, and the State of the Interest we espouse in the World, as it relates to these Things, and see how far we may think our selves concerned in all this; and really, were we qualify'd to make use of the Advantages, the Almighty Ruler of Princes seems at this time to put into our Hands, We might now establish the Protestant Religion and the Peace of Europe both at once.

It is certain, That if the last of the *Burgundian Branch of Bourbon* should now dye, of whom we have had an Account that he was Dangerously sick, and We have some Reason to believe he is dead — *Philip V.* the Prince, for whom all the present Strife is carry'd on, becomes Heir Apparent to the Crown of *France*, and must be Declared *DAUPHIN* of Course, unless the Grandfather and the Grandson too be supposed to be Dispossess'd; and of that I shall speak also in its Turn.

That *Philip* has preserved his Claim to the Crown of *France*, we all know; that if he puts in for that Crown, he can no more pretend to that of *Spain*, even the constant *Confessions and Declarations* of *Lewis XIV.* himself grants — So that here will of Course be an End of your Strife about the House of *Bourbon*'s being set upon the Throne of *Spain*; for no Body can be so ignorant, as to talk of *Philip V.* holding it while he is *Dauphin* of *France*.

When this War first broke out, and there was a Male Branch of the House of *Austria*, who was not Emperor of Germany or like to be; to put in possession of the *Spanish Monarchy*, I never open'd my Mouth in the Case, and should have joyn'd with any Bodies Opinion in this, That the *Spanish Monarchy* ought to be put into the Hands of that Branch, and not into the Hands of *France*, or any of his House; not that he had any more Hereditary Right than King *Philip*, or K. *Philip* than he,

When the Person who we fought for, Grasped at the Empire and the Crown of *Spain* too, I oppos'd it with all my Might, and shall do so as long as I can speak or write, from the same Principle, and with regard to the same Protestant Interest, that I think we all ought to prevent its being joyned to *France*; nor can I yet see, *Clamour and Party-Railery* excepted, any Argument brought against my Reasons for it, that are worth the least notice.

When we talk'd of Parting the *Spanish Monarchy*, though I never argued for giving one Inch of it to the House of *Bourbon*, yet as I knew the Confederates, even at the Treaty at the *Hague*, and at *Ghent* & *Denbergh*, were willing for Peace-sake, to have made some Concessions in favour of *Philip V.* So I left it Blank, not being at all concerned, though they should do the like again.

BUT NOW, if the young Heir is dead, and *Philip V.* claiming the Crown of *France*, I think the Case just alters again, as it did before, in the Case of *King Charles III.* being *Emperor*, and this shall testify for me in spight of all Calumny, from what Principle I have written all along — If *Philip V.* claims the Crown of *France*, we cannot honestly agree to yield him one Inch of the *Spanish Monarchy*, unless the *Emperor* and he should come exactly to *King William's Partition* — And really, if they should do that now, being both *Popish Powers*, I cannot say, that there are not Capital Reasons against it, which were not Reasons then, of which hereafter.

Well, then, says an Objector, you are come over to us again, and on this Occasion, you are for giving it all to the *Emperor*; To which I answer, Not come over to you at all, yet it is true, that in such a *Cafe*, rather than a King of *France* should have it, I am for giving it all to the *Emperor*; but I think it is a dreadful Choice, and a Choice which God has prepar'd for a Scourge to the Protestant Churches of Europe,

rope, who I dare say will, before this Age is over, dearly Repent it ; but in this sad Extremity we must venture, for France must not have it, that is a Principle ; this I have made always my Maxim, tho' Party-Clamour would not hear it ; and ye have been Bullied into a belief, that I have Argued for France, a Thing, I thank God I can say, my very Soul abhors : But I must own, the Choice to me appears to be the same, that Sir William Windham's two Maid-Servants were put to last Week, when his House was on Fire, viz. To be burnt, or to leap out of the Window, by which they both Perish'd—If you give Spain to France, you run into the Fire ; if to Austria, you leap out at Window : It is true, the last must be Chosen, as it is the best of the Woful Circumstance to choose from, because, here we are sure to be burnt, there, we may escape, tho' it be a Thousand to one, and next to an Impossibility.

Now Protestants ! Britains ! English Men ! or whatever I may call you, to win your Attention ; will you once listen to a Contemptible Author, whom you have formerly allow'd to speak Sense, and grant me to be speaking for your Good, this once, if you never read what I write more ?

There is yet one Step left, to be taken, one Opportunity put into your Hands, if you have any regard to the Safety of Religion, to the Church of God, to the latest and Kingdom of Christ in the World : If you would not have Rome Triumph over your Posterity, and your Children Curse the Memory of their Parents ; if you would not betray the Protestant Religion Abroad, and the Peace and Liberty of Europe, think but this once, and act like Men of Principle for the General Good, the Good of this Age, and of the Ages to come ; and in the Treaty of Peace now before you, provide a Security for the Protestant Interest in the World, that it may no more be in the Power of either of these two Bloody Tyrannizing, Persecuting Families, to Ravage the Church of God, and lay waste the Protestant Dominions ; that the Counsels of Jesuits and Priest-Ridden Monarchs may fail us

more Storms, nor shed no more Protestant Blood in Europe ; but that some Power may be Erected, some Foundation Establish'd, some Fortification Built, that may be a Match for the Popish Powers of Europe, whether of Bourbon or Austria ; That if ever Rome should publish a Cruisado, as she did against the Waldenses, at Tholouse, and a Religious War should begin in Europe, the Sword of the Lord and of Gideon, may be drawn together, and Heaven, who chooses to work by Means, may not be oblig'd to work Miracles to save us.

If this were not easie, if the Occasion was not put into your Hands, if the Voice of Providence, the Voice of the Nations, the Voice of Reason, and the Nature of the Thing, did not summon you to this, I should expect none of you should listen to it ; but they all concurr ; and if these great Things of your Peace are like Jerusalem's, hid from your Eyes, the Judgment and Curse of it must be obvious.

The Sum of what I plead for, is this : That a perfect Union, Harmony and Balance of Interest being Establish'd between the Protestant Powers of this Confederacy, they may so strengthen themselves by the Accession of Wealth, Security of Commerce, and Strength of Possession out of this Spanish Monarchy, at the just Reward of all the Blood and Treasure expended in the War, that the Exorbitance of either France or Austria may no more terrify us.

1. That this is easie to be done,
2. That it is most Righteous in us to do.
3. That it would be very Unjust and Ungrateful in the Emperor to deny.
4. That we cannot be just to the Protestant Cause without it.
5. That it would put a final End to our Jealousies, Fears, Clamours, and Feuds at Home.
6. In short, That it is the only Step to make us Safe, Rich, Happy, and Flourishing.

All these I refer to farther Consideration; mean Time I discharge myself in this Faithful, tho' Importuning Declaration, That now is the Time to Establish the Protestant Religion in a manifest Superiority to Popery and Idolatry in Europe; which if Heaven does not open your Eyes to, it must

be, that he does not think you Worthy to be Instruments of his Church's Deliverance, and which, if you neglect, you ought never to be trusted with another Opportunity.

The Words of Job are ended.

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